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ISSUE 96 | JUNE 2012

FUN ON THE LEYS!

SUCCESS FOR FIRST COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Picture: Mike Peckett

BY HELENA CLENNETT

THERE was fun to be had by all at the first Leys Housing Consortium Community open day. The cloudy weather did not dampen spirits as the crowds enjoyed a barbecue and lots of entertainment, including Zumba dancers, a singing group, and the twirling batons of the 'Strawberry Fayre Majorettes' and the East Oxford Archaeology Project.

The group has been taking part in micro excavations and digging test pits in the Leys. Visitors to the open day had the chance to meet the team and learn more about the hidden historical gems that have been unearthed on the estate.

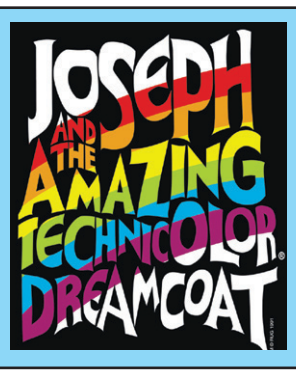
Pictured are Joanne Robinson, 24, a trainee community archaeologist, and Louise Bailey, 30, a core project volunteer currently studying for an NVQ in archaeological practice.

Joanne said: "We have been washing finds such as pottery and animal bones to show to the community. Hopefully this will generate more local interest in the project."

Continued on page 3

Blackbird Leys Bowls club

See page 7



Get involved in the new Leys community musicial

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Volunteers needed for torch relay

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Leys News
Issue 96
JUNE 2012

Leys News is a not-for-profit business dedicated to providing news and information to the whole community. We are not affiliated to any political party, and we operate an equal opportunities policy. We encourage any resident to get involved in our work.

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National Citizen Service Summer Challenge Programme

The Summer Challenge is open to anyone who will be 16 or 17 by 31 August this summer. There are 105 places available across Oxfordshire.

The programme is completely FREE OF CHARGE to all participants and offers exciting and challenging experiences.

Summer Challenge is a programme designed to bring out the best in participants, who will get to learn new skills, make new friends and support their local community while having lots of fun. National Citizen Service is a government initiative which aims to promote a more cohesive, responsible and engaged society by bringing young people from different backgrounds together to make a difference in their communities. It is a voluntary programme which focuses on personal and social development which includes challenging activities, from away-from-home residential experiences to a self -designed social action project.

For more Information on-line

www.youtube.com/watch?V=4LB6ae2p67A
www.nationalcitizenservice.direct.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/ncs

Or speak to staff at Littlemore Early Intervention Hub 01865 816202

Letter from the Editor

Hello!

THE sun is finally shining and I am sure we are all hoping for lots of fun in the sun to celebrate the extended Jubilee bank holiday.

However you decide to spend your weekend we would really like to know about it, so make sure you take loads of photos and email them to us for our next issue so that we can see how the Leys celebrated this very special event.

Perhaps you are having a street party, or having friends and family round for a traditional afternoon tea? Maybe you will be heading off to one of the organised events that are planned for Oxford, or simply celebrating by throwing a barbecue in your back garden? Whatever you get up to-please let us know!

And no doubt we will all be leaving the patriotic bunting up in preparation for the London 2012 Olympics which are the next big national event for us all to look forward to.

With the Olympic Torch Relay coming through the Leys as part of its journey to London, volunteers are still needed to help line to route and make sure everyone enjoys this very special occasion. See the back page for details of how you can get involved.

As ever this issue of your local community newspaper is packed with stories, features and photographs from around the Leys. We always love to hear from you so please get in touch.

Enjoy your Jubilee celebrations and don't forget to send us your photos!

Best wishes
Sarah

SMASH AND GRAB THEFTS

THAMES Valley Police has reported that there have been several smash and grab thefts from motor vehicles recently in the Leys.

PCSO Barry Sheehan said: "The thieves that carry this act out do so because they can see something in the vehicle of some value, including sat navs, loose change, ipods to name a few. These incidents could be easily avoided if these items were not left on display. Some of these offences have taken place in busy areas so we urge that our community think twice about leaving anything out in sight in their vehicles no matter how short their visit is."

Raising aspirations at Oxford Academy

OXFORD Academy Pupils in Year 7 have been taking part in a new initiative to help them think about their futures and what careers they might like to have once they leave school.

The initiative will start off with a small group of four girls who will meet to discuss their ambitions, with the hope of inspiring young women to raise their aspirations and to achieve their desired careers. Research suggests that small single-sex groups enable openness, honesty and trust. It is hoped that the pilot can be extended across the year group to boys too if successful.

The project has been launched by Claire Cozens, a Social Work student from Oxford Brookes University who is on placement with Year 7 at The Oxford Academy. As part of the initiative, the students are visiting professionals working in a variety of different industries.

It is hoped that these visits will not only give students some ideas about the many opportunities that might be available but will also encourage them to work towards these goals back in the classroom.

The first trip was to the Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel. The hotel's Business Manager, Michelle Christiansen, gave the students a tour of the facilities and discussed with them what jobs in the hospitality industry involve. She shared her own inspiring story of working up from a kitchen assistant to a business manager.

Second hand smoke is an invisible enemy

A NEW hard-hitting campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of second hand smoking has been launched by the Oxfordshire Smoking Advice Service.

When you smoke inside your home or car, everyone else in there is also inhaling your harmful second hand smoke, even your pets. Most second hand smoke is invisible and odourless, so even though you cannot see it or smell it is still there, and contains 4000 toxic chemicals which are in dust like particles too small for the eye to see.

These particles linger in the air, quickly spreading to other rooms in the house even if a door or window is open. They stick to clothes, walls, hair and carpets and if you smoke around your children, they can inhale the equivalent of 150 cigarettes per year.

Smoking Cessation Coordinator Laura Wardak said: "People who breathe in second hand smoke are at risk from the same diseases as smokers. Babies and children are more sensitive to this risk because their lungs are not fully developed. They breathe faster and take in more toxins than adults. Their immune system is less resistant to the infections caused by breathing smoke."

Laura added: "The home and car is the biggest source of second hand smoke. By banning smoking, you will immediately reduce the risk to your family of problems such as coughing and wheezing, meningitis, asthma, behavioural problems, cot death, learning difficulties, heart disease, ear infections, lung cancer and pneumonia."

The campaign, which has been rolled out nationally, states that by banning smoking in the home and car you are not only going to improve your family's health now and for the future but also your children are less likely to miss school due to ill health.

Laura said: "If you smoke you will naturally smoke less and may find it easier to give up, your children will be less likely to start smoking and you are giving your family a very powerful message that you care about their health."

If you are interested in stopping smoking then call 0845 40 80 300 or visit www.smokefreeoxfordshire.nhs.uk

MAKE OVER FOR BEAUTY BUSINESS

MP ANDREW Smith and Cllr Val Smith were on hand to officially open the new Beyond Hair and Beauty Salon last week. The salon, in Blackbird Leys Road, is owned by Ella Abazi and has been relaunched and given its own new look. Beyond Hair and Beauty offers a wide range of treatments from haircuts and colours through to spray tans, nail extensions and much more.

To make an appointment ring 01865 778709.

The Oxford Catholic Caribbean Association

Walsingham Pilgrimage

Sunday 24 June
Adults: £20 Children £12

Pickup from:

Bl Dominic Barberi Littlemore	7.00am
The Sacred Heart Catholic Church *Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys*	7.10am
Cowley Centre	7.20am
Our Lady's Holloway	7.30am
St Francis, Holloway	7.35am
Headington, Post Office	7.45am

For further information please contact the following:
Oxford: 771092 – 767637 – 763732 – 425685

SUCCESS FOR FIRST COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Continued from the front page

....Joanne added that before an excavation can take place, something called a desktop survey must be conducted. This involves researching archaeological records online such as the Historic Environment Record, Pastscape and Heritage Gateway. These resources document what has been found on a site previously when archaeological surveys have taken place, giving some idea of where to look and what to look out for. The team knew that during the construction of Greater Leys a lot of Roman pottery was discovered, suggesting the area was possibly the site of a pottery during that period.

Dr Olaf Beyer, 36, a project officer with the East Oxford Community Archaeology Project, added: "I have been working with some team volunteers and excavating a small test pit. In the six test pits excavated so far in Greater Leys, we have found Roman pottery and stone tools thought to be from the Neolithic period 4000–2000BC."

As well as excavation, various other techniques are used in archaeological investigation.

Dr Beyer specialises in Geophysics, a type of electronic survey looking at small changes in the magnetic quality of the soil. This involves someone walking along holding a machine which then takes a type of x-ray of the ground, highlighting potentially interesting areas for investigation.

Volunteers are trained in the different techniques. Gill Mellor and her husband Leigh have been involved with the project since its early days. After retiring and moving to East Oxford three years ago, they had hoped to find the opportunity to develop their interest in archaeology, and the project came up. They are now leading test pit digs after doing lots of training in excavation techniques and geophysics.

Leigh said: "I am pleased that the project is investigating the archaeology in residential areas, which tend to be overlooked. We are very keen and have had a test pit excavated in our garden near Florence Park. We have even written a blog about the project."

Leys resident Mark Franks, 25, another long term volunteer, said his main interest is horticulture, but after participating in the project, he found his interest has grown. From watching a couple of episodes of 'Time Team' to going to regular meetings and getting involved in the more major excavations such as one that took place at Bartlemas in East Oxford last year. He said he enjoys the eclectic mix of people he has met through the project too.

The team is hoping to attract more volunteers from the area. There are plans for future digs in the Leys area, and events all over East Oxford. There are less physically demanding roles available too for anyone who has an interest in local history.

The project has a website, Facebook page and twitter, and if you register your interest you will get regular updates about events via email. As well as excavations and geophysical surveys, you can get involved in walks and regular talks on various topics in archaeology. The team is also doing outreach projects with schools to get children involved. If you feel you might like to get involved but are worried about inexperience, Louise Bailey said: "There is no need to be intimidated, and there is always someone more experienced to ask."

For more information visit:
www.archeox.net
http://en-gb.facebook.com/ArchaeologyOfEastOxford
www.leighandgill.wordpress.com

Local families needed for Explore Oxford

THE Museum of Oxford is looking for local families to help develop a brand new exploration guide.

The guide will be used for the new Explore Oxford galleries and Oxford Town Hall.

The museum is looking for four to six family groups with children aged between 7–12 years old, to attend three or four sessions during the school holidays.

The first session is in half term on Friday 8 June and will last approximately two and a half hours. Lunch and refreshments will be included.

The families will also be invited to attend the opening of the new galleries on Saturday 23 June.

The family sessions will include:

- Ice breaker event and tour of the Town Hall. There will also be craft activities to get involved in.
- Creation of family orientation guide, taking photos, looking at key facts and using a plan of the Town Hall to mock up their own orientation guides.
- Asking for their views on draft designs and viewing the finished products.

Explore Oxford, opens in June 2012, will be the only museum exhibition in the city that tells the story of the city.

It will be easily accessed from the Town Hall's main entrance opposite Carfax Tower and presents our city's past and present in two dramatically different spaces.

If you are interested in taking part, please email Vanessa Lea at vlea@oxford.gov.uk

You will need to email your name and contact details as well as family member's names and ages and your availability.

GOOD NEWS FOR MUSIC MAKERS

TALENTED singers and bands in Oxford can now look forward to getting free music studio recordings thanks to a new initiative for Blackbird Leys, Cowley, Rose Hill and Barton.

The Demo Clinic is a programme that shows music makers how to use the internet to record music with music makers around the world.

Oxford musician Asher Dust has recorded with some of the biggest names in the UK and now all of his music is recorded via the web, for free.

Artists who are looking to create a new sound can find bands and artists online and then choose to release their music via ITunes or send their music to record labels or major label personnel at sites like Indaba Music, Rhapsody and CD Baby.

The major impact the free music recording revolution will have on singers and bands is the elimination of studio costs that can be anything from £100 per day to £500 per week.

Free workshops are being held at The Old Music Hall, Cowley Road in June, July and August 2012.

For more details phone Derek on 07857 689 541.

Singing for Fun

for over-fifties

FREE!

Join our friendly group, for some great songs that are easy to learn, and fun to sing.

"Uplifting." *"This singing brings me alive!"*

Every Tuesday 1.30 to 3.30 pm
12 June to 17 July 2012
Come whenever you can

Clockhouse Community Centre,
Long Ground, Greater Leys, OX4 7FX

For more info call Sally on 01865 395908
or just turn up.

Organised by the Clockhouse Project (Leys CDI) with support from The Patsy Wood Trust.

ARSON ATTACKS

IN THE last month there has been a spate of arson attacks on cars and street furniture around in the Leys. These incidents do not seem to be specifically targeted attacks and the Police are urging anyone who has any information to contact them using the 101 non emergency number.

OUTREACH FOR PRIMARY PUPILS

MORE than 50 pupils from Pegasus, St John Fisher and Rose Hill primary schools were invited to the Oxford Academy to take part in the Primary category of The Oxfordshire Book Awards and a Maths and Science event based around the theme of World in Motion'.

The Oxfordshire Book Award was established in 2008 with the aim of encouraging children to read for enjoyment and promote lively debate and discussion about books.

Year 4 and 5 students were given the chance to read three books, get involved in a variety of activities associated with the books and then nominate their winner to be put forward to the Oxfordshire Book Award Committee.

Around 30 students from Years 5 and 6 were invited to take part in the maths and science events.

The maths session challenged students to design and build a protective package for a delicate egg, resulting in an egg dropping competition from a bridge.

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM

THREE people in the Leys have signed Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, following criminal damage and problems caused by noise and nuisance.

PCSO Barry Sheehan said: "In the past month we have signed a further three people onto Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. Two boys have been signed up due to their unacceptable behaviour and causing criminal damage during Oxford United home matches at the Kassam Stadium. With these boys being signed up to ABCs there will be less impact to those visiting the Kassam Stadium who can then enjoy the match day experience.

"The third is a woman who was encouraging others into causing noise nuisance and verbal abuse to residents and passers by in her street.

"These were all alcohol related which on many occasions saw the issues continue throughout the night. It is hoped that by being signed up to these contracts there will be some respite for the residents of her street and for patrons visiting the Kassam Stadium on match days.

"It was brought to our attention that there has also been some hostilities in Verbena Way between some families. The Police and partner agencies will be looking at ways we can help them and reduce the impact ASB is making to their day to day lives."

NEW OFFICER ON THE BEAT

The Leys has a new addition to the Neighbourhood Police Team. PC John Birch who has joined from the core response shift is really excited about this new role and to be working on the Blackbird and Greater Leys estate.

DON'T GET BURNT THIS SUMMER

Thames Valley Police has launched its summer initiative to help prevent burglaries. PCSO Barry Sheehan said: "Now the weather is brightening up and the sun is shining, it is all too tempting to become complacent when it comes to our home security.

"The most common cases of opportunist summer burglary involve offenders that enter an insecure front door while residents are in the back garden, enter doors that are closed but unlocked at night while residents are asleep or reach through windows to take valuable items."

He added: "In around 25 per cent of break-ins that take place in the spring and summer months, entry is gained through insecure windows and doors, especially at the back of the property. Offenders also see sheds as easy pickings because they are unprotected and lack basic security measures. The buildings often contain property that can be sold on or implements that can be used to force entry into the owner's home. Many sheds while being of good construction fall short on basic security."

If you are going on holiday, Thames Valley Police have the following advice:

- Make your home look occupied.
- If you're out or going away, ask a trusted neighbour to open and close your curtains for you.
- Ask a neighbour if they don't mind parking their car on your driveway and trimming your garden to make your home look occupied.
- Cut the front and back lawns before you go away and trim any plants that burglars could hide behind.
- Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries.
- Before your holiday, don't advertise that you are going away on Facebook or Twitter.
- Register for the Royal Mail Keepsafe service.
- Leave important documents and valuable personal items with other family members or a bank.
- Double-check that you've locked all outside windows and doors.
- Set your burglar alarm.

CONTACT

To contact the neighbourhood team call the police non emergency number 101 but if your call is an emergency then dial 999.

You can also contact the neighbourhood team via email: Leysneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
(please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters.)

If you have information about crime or Anti Social Behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, please call the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555111.

To view information on your neighbourhood team you can visit the force website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

You can now also follow your neighbourhood team on Twitter: http://twitter.com/tvp_bbleys

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ESSENTIALS

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a Maxi Cup

ZIPPING ALONG AT BLAP!

BLAP is now up and running as an after school club for 8–13 year olds and many children are taking the opportunity to experience the fun of playing together and being involved also in sport and arts and crafts.

Sue Price from BLAP said: "We are grateful for funds being given to us including money from the Parish Council, Sarah Knowell Education Trust and £10,000 from the Oxford County Council Big Society Fund.

"BLAP is planning some exciting events over the next few weeks. On Jubilee Day 5 June from 2–5pm there will be a Queen's Garden Party with retro games food and music. This is a free event for all the family."

From 6–8 June BLAP will run a holiday club from 10am–1pm and 2pm–5pm when they will be exploring lifestyles and games from across the world.

Sue added: "When the Olympic torch comes to Blackbird Leys on 9 July there will be a special after school club from 3–5pm when we will make and race with Olympic torches. We will follow this with a barbecue and music for anyone wishing to join us to celebrate this historic event. During the summer holidays from 30 July until 24 August BLAP will also be running a holiday club for 8–13 year olds on the Olympic theme."

Volunteer in England Week takes place from 1–7 June and BLAP is urging people to come forward and get involved.

Sue added: "Why not take time to explore the chance of volunteering with BLAP. Local people have volunteered and are making a real contribution. We are always keen to hear from others who would like to join the team of play workers or help behind the scenes. We offer training, and during the summer play scheme there will also be openings for some paid sessional workers."

Details for all openings and of the various events can be obtained by phoning Alston Quammie on 07530933690 or Sue Price on 07773848998

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Because life's better Smokefree.

Oxfordshire Smoking Advice Service
supporting people through the process of quitting

SMOKEFREE

NEW Dovecote Project

Biddy's Dream Dovecote Afloat

For 8 to 14 years olds
Monday 23 July until Thursday 16 August

- Dovecote Afloat will run alongside our current playschemes.
- Children can to attend at the same time as our centre based schemes i.e. Easter and summer schemes.
- You can sign up to attend Dovecote Afloat for one week at a time only.
- Cost is £20 per week per child. **Pre-booked child care costs £25 per day,** 9.30am to 3.30pm.
- Children will be transported to boat by a fully qualified mini bus driver free of charge.

THANKS to an Aiming High grant we have purchased a second hand narrow boat. The boat has room to do on board activities and young people will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of activities and opportunities along the Oxford canal and or the Thames tow paths.

Time spent in the natural world promotes a positive outlook on life; it enhances and promotes children's understanding and ability to make positive changes to benefit the environment and wildlife. Example of activities, children will have the opportunity to access:

- Scavenge hunting, collecting materials to make collages, models, etc
- Wombling i.e. identify and removing litter, hazards dangerous to environment and wildlife.
- Creating homes for wildlife

This new exciting project will provide young people with many new, challenging, fun activities and opportunities.

Registration will be held at the Barn (Nightingale Ave, Blackbird Leys) **Friday 6 July, 9.15am**

Priority will be given to Blackbird Leys Residents

DOVECOTE SUMMER PLAYSCHEME

4 TO 12 YEARS OLDS – 10am to 3pm (*9.30am to 3.30pm for working parents*)
Monday 23 July until Thursday 16 August (*First two weeks or second two weeks only*)

- **£40 for two week placement per child** (*plus trip money*). This charge is for families NOT in receipt of Working Tax Credits.
- **For parents needing the scheme for child-care the cost is £25 per day** (*plus trip money etc*) which in most cases—please check before hand—can be claimed from Working Family Tax Credit. Register before the day of registration to guarantee a place and if paying the full cost of the scheme you can have all four weeks.
- **The £25 per day charge** is also applicable when fees etc are being paid for by other agencies ie. Social Services, Children Centre, etc. Again registration forms can be collected and submitted before registration.
- **Please note:** Anyone whose child needs an epipen need to inform us before hand to enable us to have the relevant training in place otherwise your child will not be able to attend.

Registration will be held at the Barn (Nightingale Ave, Blackbird Leys) **Friday 6 July, 9.15am**
Forms can be collected before hand but cannot be handed in until the morning of registration
ALL FEES PAID ON THE DAY OF REGISTRATION TO SECURE A PLACE
For further information call Carol on Oxford 712299
Priority will be given to Blackbird Leys Residents

LEISURE OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

DON'T PASS THE BUCK

Your rubbish is your responsibility

If you pay someone to remove your rubbish, ensure:

- They're legal: ask to see their Waste Carrier's Licence
- You get a receipt
- You note the vehicle registration.

! If your rubbish is illegally dumped, **YOU** could be prosecuted.

For more information, or to report fly-tipping, visit www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk contact your district council or email owp@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Oxfordshire **Waste Partnership** Your local councils working together to improve your environment

Cherwell District Council North Oxfordshire

www.oxford.gov.uk Oxford City Council

Oxfordshire County Council www.oxfordshire.gov.uk Working for you

South Oxfordshire District Council Listening Learning Leading

Vale of White Horse District Council

West Oxfordshire District Council

Bowling in May

Leys News Community Journalist **Trio Watson** tries her hand at bowling and finds it soothing and strangely compulsive!

TODAY was a good day for bowls – not too hot, not raining. The bowling green itself was saturated after several nights of rain, but in all other ways it was immaculately smooth, mown on the bias and if there were any undulations they were imperceptible. The bowling teams wore white, the woods were weighty and smooth.There was even a tea lady! How very civilised!

Pictures: Mike Peckett

To get to the heart of bowls, you need only attend an open day, where all equipment is provided and the game, an essentially simple one, is explained. It is suitable for all levels of ability and you do not need to be fit. So, what did it involve at the Blackbird Leys Bowls club?

You take a bowl in your hand, roll it along the green, and aim to get it as close as possible to the small white ball at the far end, known as the jack. The bowling balls, called woods, are slightly weighted so they roll in a slight curve. And after everyone on both teams, today it was three players a team, has thrown three woods the game is scored. A team gets one point for each of their bowls that is closer to the jack than the opponent's closest bowl. You do this twice, once from each end of the bowling rink, and the game is over. In a competition, a number of games are played. It is very soothing and slightly compulsive.

Alex Fleming (*pictured left*), who has been bowling for 14 years and was the club's skipper said: "You don't need any special qualities to play bowls, only to enjoy the company. People have all different abilities. There's a level you can play at whatever your ability." Apparently that is why bowls players play in white – it is the colour of the friendly matches and league games. For competitive bowls you wear grey.

Bowls has traditionally been seen as an old man's game, so the sight of younger players can come as something of a shock. The club's youngest member, Emily Baldwin, 22, (*pictured above*) got into bowling six months ago when members of her family asked her to join a game when they were a player short. "And that was it!" she says, with a smile. "And you get out into the sun. Get a nice tan, and it's not boring!"

If you are interested in finding out more, please come to the Blackbird Leys Bowls club open day on Tuesday 12 June from 6.30pm.

For more details phone Gordon Roper on 01865 361047, David Buckwell on 01865 881735 or John Hudgell on 01865 453093 or call in.

The club has a green and a pavilion behind the nursery on Cuddesdon Way.

GREEN FINGERS

By Stuart Mabbutt

Can man and wildlife live side by side?

OVER the next month I will be looking at whether man and wildlife really can live side by side.

My wildlife gardening company is sponsoring the Sunningwell Festival which is a music and arts festival running from 1–10 June.

The main stage is being constructed within the village pond, and as part of our sponsorship we are having a trade stand and doing talks on the stage about wildlife gardening.

We will also be recording some material for our wildlife radio programme Going Wild with Wildlife on Radio Cherwell, every Wednesday, 1.30 to 2pm. Listen live via the Radio Cherwell website.

We are doing a number of recordings before, during and after the event to see if man can co-exist with nature as long as a little consideration takes place.

Some of the recordings will also be available to hear via the Sunningwell Festival website.

I feel although our gardens and streets are very synthetic and manmade, so is the countryside. What we see as traditional English countryside is a product of thousands of years of farming and management. Having said that though, if we manage it wisely, wildlife will still come.

At previous Sunningwell Festivals the ducks quacked along to the singer, perhaps something to do with the resonance. It will be interesting to explore and we hope you will tune in and listen in to our recordings—they could be very revealing!

Grasshoppers and beetles in the garden

I WAS wondering what to write about in this wildlife gardening article, then saw a beetle sat on my study window, so there you go, grasshoppers and beetles in the garden.

Experts suggest there are up to 4100 species of beetle in Britain, most feeding on what gardeners call pests, so beetles are worth attracting. Grasshoppers and crickets though only have 27 native species in Britain and are indicators that there is good grass management happening.

Beetles need varied habitats throughout the year, some on the ground, some in tree canopies. Dense growth gives shelter, warmth and humidity, and nectar is important as some beetles need nectar as part of their diet. Even well maintained lawns and flower borders are good for beetles.

Most grasshoppers like course grassland, that is warm and sheltered. Some like damp meadows, and others like shorter grass with bare patches they can bask in. Crickets again like rough grass in the sun with some scrub and bramble on which to perch.

Keeping a mix of long and short grass is good for all three creatures, rotational pruning of your prized shrubs is advisable too. Do not prune everything every year. Yes you will lose the flowering potential on some plants the following year but having foliage of different ages will attract more beetles.

Always leave one area of lawn long and uncut all winter to give these little beasties somewhere to hibernate.

Happy Gardening

mail@leysnews.co.uk | phone: 01865 711756

PET HATES

BY ALAN WITTON

Fancy a nice cup of tea?

Yes I would, thank you very much for asking. But not just a cup of tea please – a nice cup of tea.

FOR several centuries the British have been famous as the greatest of tea-swilling nations. Not perhaps the most obvious choice for a national drink, as tea is mostly grown in India and Sri Lanka (and both those countries like a nice cuppa as well). But coffee, which pips tea as the main hot drink of choice in most parts of continental Europe, is also grown thousands of miles away and shipped to Europe at huge expense.

But there is tea and tea. Not merely distinguished by where it comes from, though I believe a true tea snob can immediately distinguish between Darjeeling and Kandy, and can probably tell you which side of the hill it was grown as well! But also distinguished by whether somebody knows how to make it properly.

I've long since despaired of getting a decent cup of tea the other side of the English Channel – which is a shame as most of my favourite holiday haunts lie in continental Europe. A request for a cup of tea there will be met by anything from blank incomprehension to an offer of a revolting brew made from any kind of vegetable matter you can name (except tea leaves), infused in lukewarm water, and served with sterilised milk and a sweet biscuit!

REVOLTING BREW

The most revolting tea I ever tasted was in a cafeteria in a small seaside town in Finland. I picked my teapot, teabag and what I foolishly thought was milk from the display, paid for it and took it to a table to construct my cuppa. Only there did I discover two deal-stopping facts; the tea was blackcurrant tea (probably very nice too, but you wouldn't want to add milk), and the supposed milk was single cream! Ugh with knobs on!

But you don't have to go as far as Finland to be confronted with an absolutely vile drink served under the name of tea. Cafes and restaurants in this country, which presumably make huge profits from converting a small pot full of hot water, a tea bag and milk and sugar to taste, into something you are expected to pay £1.50 or more for, are the main culprits. I wish them to take note that, for the product to be considered as tea, certain rules have to be observed. The tea must be made with freshly boiled water poured over the tealeaves (I am not such a purist that I reject teabags). It must be left to stand in that condition for a minute or two before pouring it out and adding milk. It should not be left to stew in a teapot for ages. In a perfect world, which we do not of course live in, the teapot should first be swilled out with boiling water before adding the tea and further boiling water. But I do not insist on this; which is a good job because I have yet to discover a café or restaurant which offers this additional service.

LUKEWARM

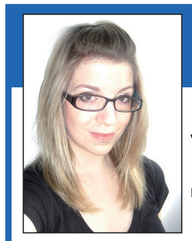
Not for me a cup of tea made with lukewarm water, with milk added before giving the tea and water a chance to get to know each other. Not for me any form of milk other than pasteurised (semi-skimmed preferred if you have it, otherwise skimmed or full cream are almost as good). And especially not for me a pot of water and a teabag issued as separate items, which almost guarantees that the water will have cooled to a non-tea-making temperature before you can put the ingredients together.

Incidentally the cheapest cup of tea I ever had cost just 2d (two old pennies, less than one new one). It was served in 1964 in the busmen's canteen in Salford, Greater Manchester, when I was working as a conductor. It was totally vile and revolting tea, but at that price I thought it best not to argue.

Nowadays the £2 cup of tea seems to be waiting in the wings, and has no doubt already arrived in the more select establishments. And it is probably equally vile and revolting, but at least it does not incorporate droppings from the pigeons which roosted in the roof space of the Salford canteen. On a recent trip to Manchester I noted with pleasure that the Salford bus station and canteen, long since closed, have now been demolished. Good riddance, say I.

Fashion on the Leys

with Natalie Wallace



Shopping fit for a Queen

MY FAVOURITE things about a royal wedding, coronation or jubilee are three-fold; the extra day off, street parties and all the tatty memorabilia to buy which is usually only found in tacky souvenir shops in the side streets of London. All are excellent reasons to commemorate our beloved QE2 in great British style.

High street and online stores are keen to cash in on the nation's most popular party so there are plenty of Brit treats to guarantee you celebrate most patriotically.

If you are not into the usual keepsake plates, mugs or tea towels then take a look at these elegant delights which I'm sure her majesty would most certainly approve of.

Every season the high street coins a motif of the moment which can be splashed across any item of clothing. We have recently had stars, owls and even fruit and veg. After the excitement of last year's royal wedding, the recent one year anniversary and now the Diamond Jubilee, crowns and tiaras could be the next big thing to cover everything from t-shirts to cushions. Contemporary jewellery brand Stars and Scars have designed a collection of necklaces featuring a crown each named after a female member of the royal family.

The necklaces retail at £9 each and are sold from the designers store on arts and crafts website etsy.co.uk. For a classic royal touch, a timeless piece of jewellery like this 1950's style brooch will give any outfit 'Duchess of Cambridge' elegance, minus a price tag to rival that of the crown jewels. The brooch is £10 and can be bought online at itsvintagedarling.com.

The British Heart Foundation has a collection of Union Jack inspired gifts and treats including hot water bottle covers, earrings, cupcake cases,

wellies (necessary for a British bank holiday weekend) and my personal favourite, London bus or taxi shaped plant pots (£9.99), perfect for street party table decor. Add a touch of red, white and blue for just £2.49 with this beaded bracelet also from British Heart Foundation. When all the money goes to charity, who can complain?

Nothing is more British when it comes to fashion than eccentric, quirky and truly original style. These economically friendly rings have been cleverly made out of the humble drinking straw using the bend as an adjustable band, just genius. Choose from six different styles at e-side.co.uk.

Another great British establishment, from a high street shopping perspective anyway, is Marks and Spencer. M&S have this union jack patchwork look cosmetics bag for just £7.50 which could also double up as a quirky clutch bag or purse to keep all your essentials in while you party away the weekend.

● The Royal British Legion's jute bag makes a fashionable accessory for your arm, whether nipping to the shops or carrying your Jubilee celebration picnic. It also helps show your support for our Armed Forces families, with all proceeds going directly to the charity to help their important work providing care and support to all members of the British Armed Forces, past and present, and their families.

The bags are available online now from the Poppy Shop, www.poppyshop.org, for just £2.60.

Domestic abuse campaign

SPEAK OUT TODAY

A CAMPAIGN to raise awareness of domestic abuse is being launched by Thames Valley Police in partnership with Domestic Abuse Co-ordinators and Crimestoppers on 14 May 2012.

The aim of the campaign is to increase awareness and promote early intervention in an attempt to break the cycle of abuse.

Reports of domestic abuse incidents average around 32,000 a year. Statistics show an increase in reporting around March, June, July and August.

The majority of domestic abuse still goes unreported, and the focus of the campaign is to encourage people to contact either the police, Crimestoppers or specialist support agencies.

The campaign will urge family, friends, neighbours and colleagues to come forward and let the police or other agencies know if they suspect someone is being abused.

A dedicated website speakouttoday.co.uk and video is being launched to provide practical information for victims and those supporting them, and includes vital links to national and local support services.

Thames Valley Police Assistant Chief Constable Helen Ball said: "Domestic abuse can take many forms; it doesn't have to be physical violence. Domestic abuse counts for one in seven of all violent incidents in England and Wales. It is a crime and we take all reports of domestic abuse seriously."

Det Supt Nora Holford, Thames Valley Police's head of Protecting Vulnerable People, added: "If you know someone is suffering domestic abuse, help them and make that call. Domestic abuse can affect anyone. It could be someone you know or it could be you, and men as well as women can be victims of domestic abuse. The first port of call is the police. Let us know by dialling 101 or 999 in an emergency. If you don't want to give your name you can report this anonymously via Crimestoppers or call one of the specialist organisations."

A HIDDEN CRIME

Mr Khan Juna, Chairman of Thames Valley Police Authority, said: "Domestic abuse is, in many ways, a 'hidden' rather than 'public' crime. Yet it results in serious human and emotional costs for victims and significant financial costs to the community. It is estimated across the Thames Valley area, domestic abuse costs victims and the public over £200 million per annum in terms of its impact on the criminal justice system, child social care, housing, employment and health care. For all these reasons the Police Authority supports this campaign to break the cycle of abuse."

Julia Hughes, from Thames Valley Crimestoppers, commented: "We understand how difficult it is for worried family and friends to speak out about domestic abuse while still providing loved ones with the support they so need.

"However there is a safe way to give your valuable information without anyone ever knowing you called, by phoning the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

"Our anonymous service can provide family and friends with the courage they need to help break the cycle of abuse before it goes too far."

Liz Jones, Domestic and Sexual Abuse Co-ordinator for Oxford City Council, said "Violence and abuse in the home has a huge impact on individuals and society as a whole, but all too often people around the victims and children do not know what to do to access help and advice.

"We need people to come forward before it is too late. We should not put the onus of responsibility purely on the victims to speak out. Those that abuse their partners and terrify their children need to change their behaviour. All of us, family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and abusers can get help and advice to prevent further suffering, national and local numbers can be found on www.speakouttoday.co.uk"

ITS TANTASTIC!

WELL summer is well and truly here and we all like to have that all important golden glow once the sun comes out! Instead of letting the harmful rays of the sun ravage your skin, why not fake rather than bake?

We gave our panel of testers a few products to try to see what they thought. This month's panel of testers were: Lisa Bergin, Anne Ryan, Natalie Wallace, Laura Deane and Sarah Edwards.

● W7 tights in a tin

Tights in a tin is an instant fake tan so you can see the colour immediately. It is easy to apply and gives a deep colour so go easy. Make sure you moisturise before you use it. Overall it is simple to apply and washes off easily and once rubbed in gives a good colour. It says avoid contact with fabric and clothing for one minute, I recommend five minutes.

● Tantanomicals

The name and packaging do not do justice to this product. As advertised it was not streaky. It had a buttery texture, and left a clean, clear tan that looked natural. It lasted five days, fading gradually. There was no residue on my clothes even after exercise, that is no sweat marks. Would I buy it? Maybe, but I wouldn't be attracted by the packaging and the one thing that put me off was the scent. Really do not like it.

● Tanatomicals face and body make up

This was my favourite of all the products I tested. Quirky packaging, this smells really nice it is not too dark, not sticky and it dries quickly, but do not leave on your hands too long as it does stain quite quickly so it is probably best to apply with tanning gloves to avoid the dreaded orange hands!

● Sunbelievable bronze me

I applied it the recommended three times but it did not really do anything. This is quite greasy so does not feel very nice on.

● I love...coconut and cream nourishing body butter and mango and papaya exfoliating shower smoothie

The 'I love…' packaging has a short blurb about the product inside which makes the stuff sound good enough to eat. When I took a whiff of the shower smoothie, I literally had to stop myself from doing just that. I can't say the same for the body butter. The coconut scents are overpowered by the cream scents and I was left smelling like I'd rolled around in a trifle. Once I got past the sickly sweet smell though, my skin was left feeling soft and thoroughly moisturised for the following 24 hours.

● CHIT CHAT Bronzing mosaic

On first appearance, this product looked promising. Three different shades of bronze on one pallet should be enough of a blend to warm my pasty complexion. Instead I was left an unflattering shade of burnt terracotta. I found wiping some of the excess powder off with a dry cotton wool pad calmed the colour a little.

● Creightons Bronze ambition Glow'n'Go instant tan

Don't let the colour of the product put you off. As an inexperienced self tanner I was surprised at how easily this tan went on. The lotion like consistency made it easy to create an all over, smooth and even glow.

● Tanatomicals instant spray in a can

The cool and quirky packaging does not make up for the shoddy product inside. The spray can application method is more difficult than it looks. You need a steady hand to be able sweep across the skin and get an even coverage. One false move and you will end up with streaky marks and very dark brown patches which don't dry quickly.

● Boots Soltan Beautiful Bronze bronzing lotion

This product was easy to apply much like a body lotion or moisturiser and dried just as quickly. It gave a smooth, even coverage and didn't rub off onto clothes during wear. The best thing about this product is the highlighting effect of the colour. Branded as a bronzing lotion rather than a self tan you should expect a sun-kissed, natural appearance which develops instantly and washes off just a quickly. Soltan's reputation as a go-to household name for summer skin care is further enhanced with this simple but highly effective product.

What's On at The Leys Children's Centre

JUNE–JULY 2012

61–63 Cuddesdon Way, Blackbird Leys OX4 6SB

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cuddesdon Corner **For Mikko Enticknap call 01865 773263** **(Linked with Orchard Meadow School 01865 778609)** **For Anne Wells and Valerie O'Malley call 01865 779615** **For Camille Kalaja call 0789 995 8316**	NEW! **Manicure and Pedicure*** Starting 18 June 9.30am–11.30am Contact Anne Wells **Maths*** Starting16 April. 1.00–3.00pm. Contact Anne Wells . **Knitting Group*** Starting 18 June + 1.30–3.00pm. Contact Anne Wells. **Stay & Play for Babies, dads, mums and carers** 1.00–3.00pm. Contact Mikko Enticknap. **The Breastfeeding Café – for pregnant and feeding mums** 1.00–2.00pm. Contact Camille Kalaja. **The Listening Centre** 12.30– 9.00pm. Phone 01865 794794	**PEEP for 1s #** 9.30–10.30am. Call 01865 395145. **Stay & Play with lunch** (*small fee*) 11.00am – 2.00pm *including:* ● ***Speech and Language Advice*** available 12.00–1.00pm. ● ***Nursery Nurse*** advice and information available on the second. Tuesday of the month, 11.00am–12.00pm. ● ***Lone Parent Advisor*** advice and information available on the last Tuesday of the month, 12.00–2.00pm. **Job Centre Plus** 1.00–2.00pm. See Joumana at Cuddesdon Corner. **The Listening Centre** 5.00–9.00pm.	**Midwife Clinic** for post natal and baby checks, support and advice. 12.30–2.00pm. Drop-in or make an appointment on 01865 221696. **New Baby Group** For parents and children birth to 12 months. 1.00–2.30pm. Contact Mikko Enticknap. **The Listening Centre** 5.00–9.00pm. ***Coming in September*** ● Dinosaur School ● Food Safety ● Creative Writing ● Entry to Childcare ● Assertiveness ● Helping your children with Reading and Writing	NEW! **Computing for Beginners*** Starting 14 June 9.30am–11.30am Contact Anne Wells NEW! **Nutrition and Healthy tips for Children*** Starting 14 June 9.30am–11.30am Contact Anne Wells **Agnes Smith Advice Centre** (for advice on benefits, money advice and debt) 10.00am–1.00pm. Contact Jackie Knight 01865 770206. Also for details of other drop-in sessions. **Asian Women's Group*** Starting 19 April. 1.00–2.30pm. Contact Anne Wells. NEW! **Creative Sewing*** Starting 14 June 1.30pm–3.00pm Contact Anne Wells	**Stay & Play with lunch** (small fee) 9.00am–2.45pm. Dads Worker available. **Saturday** **Dad's Zone** 10.00 am–1.30pm. Contact Conroy Harris 0777 540 7524. **PARENT FORUM** **Come and meet the new Head of Leys Children's Centre** ***Thursday 14 June at Cuddesdon Corner 9.30–11.30am Childcare available***
Orchard Meadow **01865 778609**		**Parents Coffee Morning** in the Parent Room, 9.00–10.00am **Support our Sparklers*** 10.15–11.30am. Sessions run on 12 and 26 June and 10 July. Contact Ruth Donaldson 01865 779615	**Baby PEEP** 1.30–2.30pm. Call 01865 395145		
Pegasus **01865 777175** **Contact Rachel Walding**			**Stay and Play** 9.15–11.30am **Stay and Play** 12.45–3.00pm		**Saturday** **Maluchy** (*Little Ones*) **10.00–1.30am, Pegasus School.** **Call Agata 07874 187 704**
Windale **01865 777796** **Contact Karen Clarke**	**Stay and Play** 9.30–1.30am		**Sewing Circle** 9.00–11.00am	NEW! **Time for Twos** Starting 14 June 9.30am–11.30am **Stay and Play** 1.15–3.00pm	**Parents Coffee Morning** 9.00–11.00am
Leys Health Centre	**Infant Feeding Talks For pregnant women** 11.00am–12.00pm. To book an appointment Contact Camille Kalaja on 01865 788688	**Baby Massage** For babies from eight weeks old living on The Leys. 1.00–2.00pm. Contact Linda Picton 01865 788688		**Baby PEEP** 1.30–2.30pm. Call 01865 395145	
The Dovecote **Nightingale Avenue**	**Baby PEEP** 9.30–10.30am **PEEP for 1s** 1.30–2.30pm Call 01865 395145	**Sparklers** Every other Tuesday, 1.15–2.15pm. 19 June and 3 and 17 July. Contact Ruth Donaldson 01865 779615	**PEEP for 2s** 9.30–10.30am **Grandparent Drop-In** 1.00–2.30pm. Contact Valerie O'Malley 01865 779615		

 # For information on other PEEP groups in the area contact 01865 395145
+ course runs every other week

Single sessions at Cuddesdon Corner
Housing Information session on Tuesday 12 June 1.30pm–3.00pm
Childcare is available for all single sessions. Contact Anne Wells to book places.

Co-operative Nursery
Provides childcare on the Leys
8.00am–6.00pm, Monday to Friday
For more information call 01865 401205
Additional childcare information available on a separate leaflet. (For a copy contact Valerie O'Malley on 01865 779615)

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL www.oxfordshire.gov.uk Working for you

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www.theleyschildrenscentre.org

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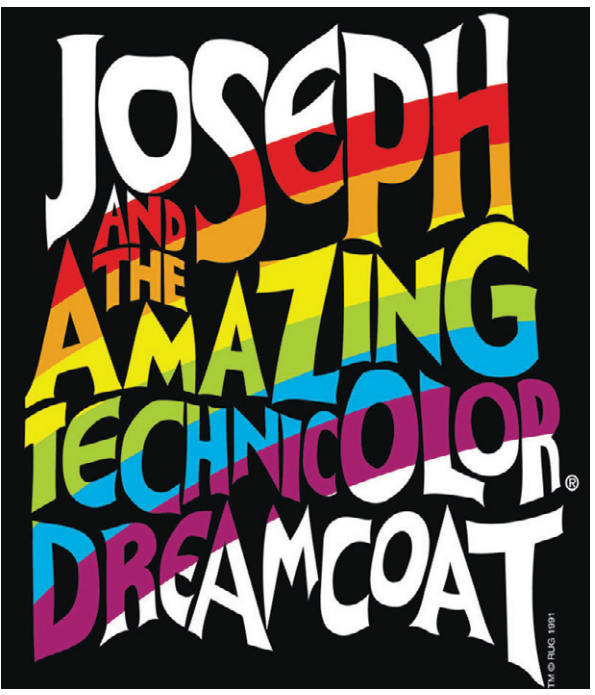
Arts and culture

AN AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAM FOR THE LEYS!

Local actors wanted for major community production



BUDDING performers from across the Leys are needed to take part in a major theatrical production.

The casting call for the Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice hit musical Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat will follow a community meeting on 11 June.

Sasha East, from Catalyst Housing is also the Chair of the Leys News Board of Directors. She said: "In 2004 a group of local residents put together a performance of Robin Hood: Prince of Leys a pantomime written by a local resident just as a unique pantomime for Blackbird Leys.

"It took several months to put this together and in December for three nights it was performed at Church of the Holy family Blackbird Leys where the church was turned into Sherwood Forest and about 150 people came to see the show each night. This time I am looking for people who are interested in putting on a production of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. This is a fun musical which I hope will bring the community to life."

Sasha added: "Anyone of any age and ability can get involved and as well as performers we are looking for people to help out with all of the backstage work and with many of the other tasks such as selling tickets, creating scenery and promoting the event."

An initial meeting was held recently to get the ball rolling and the next meeting will be on Monday 11 June at 6.30pm at Holy Family Church Cuddesdon Way.

For more information call 0791 770 4320.

Comedy cooking and curry at the Playhouse

WIN TICKETS!

HARDEEP Singh Kohli is at The Oxford Playhouse for an evening of comedy, cooking and curry in Indian Takeaway on Friday 15 June.

The country is obsessed with curry. But how do Hardeep's home-cooked curries, the recipes inspired by his Mum and his Gran, compare to the local Indian takeaways we love and adore? At the start of the show Hardeep will order a takeaway live on stage for delivery to the theatre. While waiting for the order to arrive Hardeep cooks his own food. Audience members can submit suggestions for the best local Indian takeaway via HardeepLive.com before the show.

Hardeep's first book, Indian Takeaway, was nominated for an Independent Book Award and he has written about food for Observer Food Monthly, The Spectator, The Times and The Sunday Times.

Hardeep is also a regular host on Channel 5's popular current affairs show, The Wright Stuff and has been a regular reporter on BBC1's The One Show. He was also runner-up on the first series of Celebrity Masterchef.

Tickets for Indian Takeaway with Hardeep Singh Kohli at Oxford Playhouse are available from the Ticket Office on 01865 305305 or book online at www.oxfordplayhouse.com but one lucky Leys News reader can win a pair of tickets by answering this question correctly:

Who inspired Hardeep's home-cooked curry recipes?

Please send your answer to editor@leysnews.co.uk and mark your email CURRY COMP in the subject line, or send your answer on a postcard to the usual address on page 2. All entries must be received by June 6.

CRAFT CORNER with Jane Yates

Shabby chic peg bag

I EXPECT that many of us remember our grandma having a peg bag? I know in the age of tumble dryers a peg bag might seem a bit redundant. But I thought it would be nice to create a bit of retro chic to add a homely touch to my house.

To make this you will need:

- Odd curtain material (try the charity shop)
- Old wooden coat hanger
- Wonder web, to iron the seams together
- Cotton to tack together
- Braid or lace to trim (£1.69 Tesco)

First cut down the wooden coat hanger. Then place this on the material and cut out a strip, place the hanger on the material and cut a hole so that you can poke the top of the hanger out to hang it up.

Next Iron the seams flat with the wonder web and then tack along for extra strength, folding the corners around the back. Add the braid to the front by tacking along it.

Finally add the pegs and hang up.

Oxford Pride

8–17 June

OXFORD Pride is planning a major celebration this year to mark its 10th anniversary. From modest beginnings in 2002, the community event has grown rapidly and now incorporates a ten day arts and cultural festival, with events produced by local organisations, businesses and individuals.

Info: www.oxfordpride.org.uk

Mad Hatter's Tea Party for Grown-Ups

The Study, The Living Room, Justice Walk, Oxford Castle Quarter
Friday 6 July. 7pm–2am.
FREE ENTRY

STEP through the looking glass and make like a Mad Hatter at a tea party strictly for grown-ups in the Living Room's stylish Study. Come in Alice in Wonderland fancy dress and enjoy the Alice-inspired cocktail and canapé menu whilst enjoying glimpses of Alice-inspired film screenings...

Tickets are required for this event, however, it is free to attend. Call The Living Room on 01865 260210.

www.thelivingroom.co.uk/location/oxford
www.storymuseum.org.uk/alice

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENTS

Woodstock Carnival

16 June, 4.30pm–10pm

THIS year's topical theme is Woodstock's Wacky Olympics which allows a chance to get into the Olympic spirit early, with a difference!

Participants will invent their own sport for the parade and stalls, so plenty of chance for wild imaginations. On 16 June at 4.30pm the Carnival has its opening ceremony (including its very own torch).

Stalls, entertainment and food are all available and at 6pm the parade starts, with live music in the Town Square through to 10pm.

Venue: Woodstock Town Centre
Tickets: Free admission
Info:www.wakeuptowoodstock.com

Creation Station Crafty Victorians

6–9 June

MAKE simple crafts inspired by the Victorians' use of recycled materials.

Venue: Heritage Learning Centre, Oxford Town Hall
Cost: £1.50 per pack
Info:www.oxfordtownhall.co.uk

A Dinosaur's Domain

7 June, 1pm–4pm

DISCOVER the world of prehistoric plants and create your own dinosaur paradise.

Venue: University of Oxford Botanic Garden
Cost: Free admission with entry to the Garden
Info: www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk

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Thanks to Oxford Brookes University for sponsoring this page. If you are interested in studying at Oxford Brookes please call Sobia Afridi on 01865 484886

Leys Learning

NEW RECRUITS FOR ROSE HILL

IT WAS smiles all round for our friends in nearby Rose Hill, as they received their certificates of completion following their recent Community Journalism course.

The courses give an insight into the importance of community or hyperlocal news, and provide new volunteers with the skills they need to spot good stories, interview people and write articles for their local newspapers.

Run by Leys News with financial support from Oxford Brookes University and Greensquare Housing, the courses are led by Leys News Editor Sarah Edwards, and can be held in any community where there is an interest in developing a truly local news service.

Sarah said: "As well as working with the Rose Hill team, we have also been supporting a group in Wood Farm who are keen to increase the number of volunteers in their team. The Rose Hill course was a huge success and attracted some new members of the team. This will help Rose Hill News go from strength to strength."

Sarah added that the Community Journalism courses are being well received and inspiring people across Oxford, and beyond to launch their own newspapers.

"The first issue of Cowley News rolled off the press last month and the team there did exceptionally well, going from complete novices in week one of the course, to actually producing their own newspaper in six weeks!

"In Wood Farm we now have a great group of volunteers who are all keen to work together, and the hyperlocal news bug is spreading further afield as well. We have just finished teaching a group in Corsham, Wiltshire, and there are more to come!"

News from BLITZ

IT courses still FREE with Blitz!

Would you like to improve your IT skills?

Would you like to improve your work prospects?

Would you like help to get a Job?

If yes then phone now to find out about our courses.

DROP IN TIMES:
(FREE access to the internet for all adults)

Monday: 12.30–3.00pm
Tuesday: 12.30–3.00pm
Friday: 12.30–3.00pm

Do you want to help your community?

BLITZ is currently looking for voluntary teaching assistants with basic IT skills

For more information call 01865 714492

Blackbird Leys IT Hub
Leys Linx Centre, Blackbird Leys Community Centre

GET A TASTE FOR LEARNING WITH FREE COURSES

FREE courses for people who live on the Leys are available now in subjects ranging from cookery to web design, childcare and photography.

Community groups are being urged to contact Oxford Cherwell Valley College with details of anyone who they think would be interested in taking part.

Kate Pullen, Community Development Manager at OCVC said: "These are free community taster sessions and short courses aimed at encouraging and engaging people back into learning and education in the community. The courses are generally non-accredited as the main aim is to engage people back into learning."

Subjects on offer include an introduction to sign language, digital media and web design, DIY, hairdressing and creative arts.

Kate added: "To be able to take part, learners need to be over 19, and not have a qualification above a full level 2 (e.g.5 GCSEs A - C). They must also be unemployed and on one of the following benefits: JSA, Income Support, Housing/council Tax Benefit, Working Tax credit (where household income is less than £15,276), Asylum seeker on income based benefit, ESA (income related), Pension Credit, unwaged dependent upon someone in receipt of any of these benefits."

Community organisations who would like to know more about the course can contact Kate on kpullen@ocvc.ac.uk

FA Young Leaders event kicks off at the Academy

THE Oxford Academy opened its doors for a Young Leaders Day, held by Oxfordshire FA. The event is aimed at young volunteers within the county and ten Academy students were invited to take part.

The event is for 15–17 year olds to further develop their skills as young leaders and find out more about a future in football. The best young leaders attending also had the opportunity of being selected for The FA Football Futures Leadership Camp 2012 and as well as an FA project abroad.

The event kicked off in front of 30 students from local secondary schools including Cheney, Carterton Community College, North Oxfordshire Academy, Gosford Hill, St Gregory's as well as The Oxford Academy. Young leaders attended three workshops; Coaching Blind Footballers on the Academy's astro facility, Youth coaching in its indoor 3G dome and Team building in one of the Academy's sports classrooms.

Congratulations go to Year 12 Academy student, Megan Kerry, who was selected among the best young leaders this year. She joins Academy student Chad Woolands who was chosen last year.

Only 100 of the top leaders from across the country are selected for the camp and Megan was picked along with one other male student from Oxfordshire County. Gareth Jennings, Director of Football and Sports Development at the Academy, said: "We have been successful in sending an Academy student representative to the camp every year since taking part in FA Young Leaders".

Megan was selected for her outstanding leadership skills and is looking forward to the camp, which takes place at the Royal National College of the Blind in Hereford in July.

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Your local representatives

Parish Council

Chairman: Gordon Roper;
Vice Chair: Brian Lester;
Non-position holders: Tanya Prescott, Chris Hatton, Cyril Martin, Mrs Ann Booker, Mrs Sheila Smith, Pat Stannard, Rae Humberstone (*see City Council section below*), Gerry Webb

For further details telephone 01865 716943 during office hours of 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday. Send mail to Parish Council, 13 Bailey Road, Oxford, OX4 3HU.

Also check leysonline.net to find out about Parish Council Meetings.

Oxford City Council

Blackbird Leys Ward

Val Smith – *Labour*
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD
☎ 07767 446051
valsmith@gmail.com
or cllrvsmith@oxford.gov.uk
(*her city councillor entry*)

Rae Humberstone – *Labour*
75 Little Bury, Blackbird Leys
☎ 01865 779678
cllrhumberstone@oxford.gov.uks

Val Smith and Rae Humberstone will be doing street surgeries every other week. They can also visit people in their homes – ring or email to make arrangements.

Northfield Brook Ward

Steve Curran – *Labour*
88 Fairacres Road, Oxford, OX4 1TG
☎ 07941 785538
StephenCurran55@yahoo.co.uk

Scott Seamons – *Labour*
2 Orchard Court Rose Hill
Oxford OX4 4HJ
☎ 07910 595047
cllrsseamons@oxford.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council

Leys & Lye Division

Val Smith – *Labour*
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD
☎ 07767 446051
val.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Richard Stevens – *Labour*
Flat 6 Eaton Court, Water Eaton Road, Oxford OX2 7QT
☎ 07725 353031
richard.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Member of Parliament for Oxford East

Andrew Smith – *Labour*
Unit A
Bishops Mews
Transport Way
Oxford OX4 6HD
☎ 01865 595790
andrewsmith.mp@virgin.net

Surgery: Every third Friday at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre from 3.00pm

What's on in the Leys

A quick guide to what's available locally. If you have a service or event you'd like to include, please ring 01865 711756

ADVICE

Agnes Smith Advice Centre
Gives free independent and impartial advice.
Drop-in sessions are in the centre on Mondays 2.00–4.00pm and Fridays 10.00am–12.00pm. Also in the Farmhouse on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am–12pm.
☎ 01865 770206

CHILDREN

Teenage Rounders Class
Tuesdays, 4.00–5.00pm
£1.20.
For 14–18 year olds
Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre

Breastfeeding Café
Mondays, 1.00pm–2.00pm at Leys Children's Centre, Cuddesdon Corner.
☎ Camille, 0789 995 8316

Blackbird Leys Youth Centre
Blackbird Leys Road. Variety of activities and advice for young people. ☎ 01865 772886.

Brownies:
Thurs, Holy Family Church Hall.
☎ Jennifer Pleass 07886 757338.

Dovecote Afterschool Club
Mondays–Thursdays, 3.15pm–5.00pm, £1.30 per session.
☎ 01865 712299

Maluchy group
for Polish speaking families with children ages 0 to 5 years. Saturday, 10.00am–11.30am, at Pegasus School.
☎ Agata, 07874 187 704

35th Oxford Scout Group
☎ Duncan Bowler, 0776 6293353
duncan@35thoxford.com

Leys Kiddie Club
Mon, Tue, Thur and Fri, 9.30am–2.30pm, at Dovecote Family Drop-in Room. £1.

Oxfordshire (The Rifles) Battalion Army Cadet Force
Thursdays, 7.30–9.30p at Sandy Lane West. Boys and girls ages 13 to 18.
☎ 01869 259681

Mother and Toddler Bounce
Trampoline Sessions suitable for mothers and toddlers held on Thursdays, 10.30–11.30am. Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre.
☎ Fiona, 07891 419793

Strawbery Fayre Majorettes
Training every Wednesday at the Barn in Nightingale Avenue, Greater Leys, 7.00–9.15pm. Taking on new members any time of the year.
☎ Eleen Filer 01865 717781

Rainbows
For girls aged 5 to 7.
Fridays during term time, 5.30–6.30pm, at the Holy Family Church Hall on Cuddesdon Way.
☎Alexandra, 07804 500313.

EDUCATION

Blackbird Leys Library
Cuddesdon Way, Opposite Top Shops.

Books, DVDs, audio books, use of computers for adults and children, photocopying, reading group, holiday activities.

Opening times:
Mon, Wed, Thur: 9am–12pm and 1.30–5pm
Tue: 9am–12pm
Sat: 9.30am–12.30pm
Friday Closed

Able Centre
Free courses in Maths and English.
☎ Nicky, 01865 728688

Blitz IT Courses
IT for beginners, internet, email, file management, PC maintenance and more.
☎ 01865 714492

LEISURE

Irish dancing.
Sacred Heart Hall. Weds and Thurs, 5pm.

Boxing Club.
Tues and Thurs 7.30–9.00pm, at Youth Centre, Blackbird Leys Road.
☎ Tony Gibson, 01865 432995

Blackbird Leys Swimming Pool
Blackbird Leys Road.
General swimming times are:
Mon & Fri, 5.45–6.45pm;
Sat & Sun, 11.15am–1.00pm, & 1.30–2.30pm
Prime Time for over 50s:
Mon, 12–1.00pm;
Wed, 11.30–12.30pm
Water Workout:
Tue and Fri, 12–1.00pm
Slimming World
Thurs, 12–1.00pm
☎ 01865 467040

BBL Leisure Centre
Zumba:
Mondays, 10.30–11.30am
Body Balance:
Tuesdays, 11.00–12.00pm
Legs, Bums, Tums:
Wednesdays, 10.15–11.15am
Body Pump:
Thursdays, 9.30–10.30am
Pilates:
Thursdays, 10.30–11.30am
Boxercise:
Fridays, 10.30–11.30am
Overs 50s indoor cycling:
Mondays, 11.30–12.15pm
☎ 01865 467020

OLDER PEOPLE

Prime Time Over 50s group
Wednesdays, 10.30am - 3.30pm, at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre,
Pegasus Road (£1.50). Keep fit, bingo, indoor bowls, speakers, activities and trips.
☎ 07534 740589

Golden Circle
☎ Bernard Tucker, 460592

Silver Circle
☎ 435954 (Blackbird Leys Community Centre)

The Clockhouse
see box on opposite page

Monday lunch club
☎ Anne Appleton, 422231

Leys Community Church Over 60s Club
Wednesday afternoons.
☎ Keith Templar, 715815

Grandparents' Stay & Play
Bring your grandchildren to the Leys Childrens Centre drop-in, specially for grandparents. Weds 1–3 pm at the Dovecote.

WELLBEING

Skiptrix Fitness Class
Get fit, tone and lose weight.
Thursdays, 6.30–7.15pm at the Ark T Centre, Cowley.
Satudays, 10–10.45am at the Barn, BBLeys. £4.00 per class.
☎ Trish, 07957754355
trishwisdom@yahoo.co.uk

Slimming World
Thursdays, 5.15pm and 7.00pm, Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road.
☎ Gill, 01865 730009

CLASSIFIEDS

Reach new customers in your local area with a Leys News Classified ad. Advertise your business from as little as £10 per issue (when booking for 12 months). To book your space ring John on 01865 711756

BUSINESS SERVICES

Does your business need a boost?

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jameshawtin@hawtin-electrical.co.uk
www.hawtin-electrical.co.uk
☎ 07811 401279

Calvin Pennant
71 Long Lane, Oxford OX4 3TN
☎ 07960 328170

CLEANING

Solo Assist Domestic Cleaning Services (including end of tenancy). ☎ Marilyn on 01865 308067 or 07990 630332

CARERS

Acquire Care
Oxford Science Park, OX4 4GP
Tel: 01865 338050

COMPUTERS

Friendly Computer Support
Broadband and wireless setup, speed up your computer and health checks, anti-virus support, Microsoft Windows re-installation and upgrades, data backup solutions.
One-to-one private tutorials: Microsoft Office, emails, computer maintenance and file management.
☎ 01865 469069
& 07884 318 464
efaria@gmx.co.uk

FAST/TAKEAWAY FOOD

Chillies Indian Cuisine
Dunnock Way, OX4 7EX
☎ 01865 775849

Dominos Pizza
57 Between Towns Rd, OX4 3LR
☎ 01865 777137

Papa John's Pizza
80 Rose Hill, Oxford, OX4 4HS
☎ 01865 402050

Pizza Hut
3 Courtlands Rd, Rose Hill, OX4 4HS
☎ 01865 236116

Pizza Polo
34 Cowley Rd, Littlemore OX4 4LD
☎ 01865 425630

FLORISTS

Joe Austin
174 Cowley Road, OX4 6NQ
☎ 01865 792037

The Garden
99-100 The Market, OX1 3YD
☎ 01865 240709

GARDENS

Female Gardener
Weeding, watering, planting, and trimming at reasonable rates.
☎ 07788933891

Acorn Nursery
Stadhamptom, Oxford
☎ 01865 891663

Oxford Garden Centres
South Hinksey, OX1 5AR
☎ 01865 326066

Pathway Workshop
Dunnock Way, OX4 7EF
☎ 01865 714111

Wyevale Garden Centre
Suthern-By-Pass, Oxford
☎ 01865 326066

JOBS

Start your own business with Neals Yard Remedies. For more info call Katie 395960
kches2001@yahoo.com

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Bathe in Beauty
The Ozone Health and Fitness Club,Kassam Stadium
☎ 01865 335300
www.batheinbeauty.co.uk

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Aromatherapy, Indian Head Massage, Holistic Massage, Thai Foot Massage, Hopi Ear Candling, Reflexology
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☎ 01865 749220
phyllidachappell@yahoo.com
www.holistictherapistoxford.co.uk
Neal's Yard Remedies
☎ *01865 203544*

HAIRDRESSERS

Hair & Body Shop
Ozone Park, Grenoble Rd, OX4 4XP ☎ 01865 775817

Beyond Hair & Beauty
94 Blackbird Leys Rd, OX4 6HS
☎ 01865 778709

MOBILE HAIRDRESSER
Qualified, Professional, Experienced. *Great Results*
Ladies cut & blow dry . . . £15.00
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Chilldren £6.00
Perms (*including cut*) £38.00
Highlights (*including cut*) . . . . . from £38.00
☎ Jenny, 01865 776777 & 07501 787 123

PLUMBERS

Long Brothers
25 Eastern Ave, OX4 4QS
☎ 01865 597064

Safe Heating & Plumbing
37 Druce Way, OX4 6TJ
☎ 01865 772303

TAXIS

ABC
70A Hollow Way, OX4 2NH
☎ 01865 597029

Air Link Oxford
24 Vicarage Close, OX4 2NH
☎ 01865 434040

Oxford Cars
Regus, 7200 The Quorum, OX4 21Z ☎ 01865 406070

WINDOW CLEANERS

MRF
37 Green Hill, OX4 7UD
☎ 01865 599812

Taylors Windows
Greater Leys
☎ 01865 773486

Men's Group
Join us for regular end of day in a relaxed and friendly environment. Learn stress management tools and use this space to talk with other men and organise activities together.
Wednesdays, 5.30–8.00pm
Cowley Wellbeing Centre
26 Between Towns Road
☎ Duncan / Lanre
07435 760 809
01865 749998

The Listening Centre
A counselling service for Blackbird Leys and Oxford. Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre.
☎ 01865 794794

Survivors
Fridays and Saturdays, Blackbird Leys Community Centre.
9.30am – 3.30pm.
All welcome.

A self-help group of people who use or have used Mental Health Services, working together to get support for, to share experiences and to press for greater awareness of the needs of survivors.

Lunch available for £1. Pudding 50p. Breakfast from 50p. Card making. Table top sales.
☎ 07729 581975

Yoga For All
Experienced Yoga teacher, starting a new class.
☎ Linda Highland on 01865 432570

NETWORKING

Leys WI
Meets at the Clockhouse on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm.
☎ To find out more call Rachel Fisher on 07528 433199
www.theleyswi.moonfruit.com

Women's Community Business Network
Open to all women who have a business or are interested in finding out more about starting one. Speaker plus networking.
Meets second Tuesday of each month 7.30–9pm at the Jack Argent room, Leys Community Centre. £3
☎ Katie, 01865 395960
womenscommunitybusiness@yahoo.co.uk
www.womens-business-network.co.uk

If you have a service or event you'd like to include, please ring 01865 711756.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 12 June
Blackbird Leys Bowls club open day. From 6.30pm. ***See page 7***

Monday June 11
Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Community production meeting at 6.30pm at Holy Family Church Cuddesdon Way. ***See page 11***

Tuesday 26 June
Parish Council meeting Jack Argent Room, 7.00pm. Call 01865 716943 for details

Friday 6 July
Registration day for Dovecote Afloat and the Dovecote Summer Playscheme. ***See ad on page 5***

Monday 9 July
Olympic Torch comes to Blackbird Leys. ***See backpage***

Monday 16 July
Closing date for Oxford in Bloom.

Active Women

Active Women is a recently launched project co-ordinated by the Oxfordshire Sports Partnership which encourages more women in Oxfordshire to take part in sport.

Badminton at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre

Mondays, 8–10pm (*mixed adult session*) £5.50 per session.

Tuesdays, 10–11am (*women only session*) £3.20 per session (£1.20 for Fusion members)

Tuesdays, 7–8pm (*family session*) £3.20 adults and £2.20 children

Wednesdays, 10.00am–11.30am (*50+ session*) £2.50 per session.

Wednesdays, 7– 9pm (*mixed adult session*) £5.50 per session.

Badminton at Oxford Spires Academy

Tuesdays, 7–8pm
Oxford Spires Academy,
Glanville Road
Cowley, OX4 2AU
£3.50 per session.
(*No sessions 5 June*)

Badminton at Oxford Academy

Thursdays,
7.30–8.30pm
The Oxford Academy,
Sandy Lane West,
Littlemore, OX4 6JZ
£3.50 per session

Trampoline at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre
Mondays, 6.30pm – 7.30pm.
Runs six weeks. £27 or £5.60 per session

Netball at Oxford Academy

Tuesdays, 8–9pm
The Oxford Academy,
Sandy Lane West,
Littlemore, OX4 6JZ
£3.50 per session

Netball at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre

Sundays, 5–6pm
Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre,Pegasus Road,
Blackbird Leys, Oxford ,
OX4 6JL
£3.20 per session

Football at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre

Thursdays, 6.30–7.30pm
Blackbird Leys Playing Field, by the Leisure Centre, Oxford, OX4 6JL
£2.50 per session.

For more info: Natasha Mighty 467264 / Natasha.Mighty@fusion-lifestyle.com
www.getoxfordshireactive.org

Clockhouse Community Centre

Our sessions are either low-cost or free, and all Leys over 50s are very welcome! Call Sally Meachim on 01865 395908 for dates and details.

Long Ground, Greater Leys OX4 7FX. ☎ 01865 395908 **E:** clockhousecdi@btconnect.com

Over 50s advice
FREE monthly, confidential, advice on benefits, debt, housing and consumer issues. Outreach session at the Clockhouse, by Agnes Smith Advice Centre. 10am–12pm. Next dates: Monday 28 May and Monday 25 June.
☎ book appointments on 395908

Games Club for over 50s
Do you enjoy board games like scrabble and dominoes? Try this friendly club at the Clockhouse. Drink/biscuits included. £1. Mondays, 18 and 25 June, 1.30 to 3.30pm. (No sessions on 4 or 11 June). Come and join us – all welcome.

Line dancing for over 50s
Monthly dances. No partner needed, beginners very welcome. Good exercise, great fun! Next one: 11 June, 1.30–3pm at the Clockhouse. £2.

Yoga for over 50s
Seated/standing exercise, and relaxation. Improve your flexibility, feel calm and refreshed. Tuesdays 10-11 am. £2. (No session on 5 June)

Singing for fun for over 50s
No pressure, or reading music, just relax and enjoy singing in good company. Tuesdays 1.30–3.30pm. (No session on 5 June). FREE

Crafts group for over 50s
Wednesdays, 11am–12.30pm. Bring your knitting, crochet, or sewing and have a natter. Beginners very welcome. £1

Tai chi for over 50s
Seated and standing exercise to help you get more supple, and boost your energy. Come and give it a try! Thursdays, 10–11am. (No session on 7 June). £2

Gardening Club
SLIGO (Senior Leys Independent Gardening Organisation) meets first Thursday of each month, at 2pm. ***Thursday 7 June:*** **Dragonflies and their habitats** (talk by Brian Walker, British Dragonfly Society). £2. Adults of all ages very welcome. SLIGO also has regular work parties in the Clockhouse community garden.
Tuesday 3 July: **Day Trip to RHS Wisley Gardens.** Cost: £15 (non-members), £12 (members). Non-members and adults of all ages welcome. Book your place by end June. For details call 771613 or 395908.

Computer courses for over 50s
Learn at your own pace with the Clockhouse IT Project Group. Complete beginners very welcome. Learn how to improve your digital photography skills, or how to make DVDs and calendars. £1.
☎ For more details call 395908.

Evening activities group
Local people have started a "Clockhouse Activity Nights Group" (CLANG). Join the CLANGers at our friendly monthly socials. Meet others, relax, chat, and make new friends. Adults of all ages welcome! Next one: Wednesday 27 June Evening Social 7–9pm. £2 (includes refreshments).
☎ For more details call 01865 395908

Samba Dance for over 50s
Oxford City Council class. Mondays, 10–11am (except bank holidays). All abilities. No experience needed. £2.50

LOCAL CHURCHES

The Church of the Holy Family
Eucharist: Every Sunday, 10am, with children's activities.
Timeout: Reflective worship. Most Sundays, 6.30pm.
Church Office Hour: Mondays (except bank holidays) at 6.30–7.30pm. For hall bookings, wedding arrangements and enquiries.
Fellowship for Bible: Study, discussion and prayer. Most Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
☎ Revd Heather Carter 01865 778728
Rev Adam Stevenson, 01865 714163
www.holyfamilybbl.co.uk

Redeem Christian Church of God
Meets at the Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road.
Sunday Service: 3–6.00pm
Bible study on Fridays: 7–8pm, except last Friday of month.
☎ 07825 679044 and 01865 766056
www.RCCGLighthouse.co.uk

Leys Community Church
Meets on Sunday, 11am at the Oxford Academy, Beecroft Room (includes special activities for children and young people).
☎ Chipper and Anna Betts, 07985 982804

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys
Sunday Masses: 9.30am, with music and children's liturgy; and at 6.00pm. ☎ 01865 776903

Chrisco Ministries
Meets in Jack Agent Hall at the BBL Community Centre.
Sunday Service: 11am–2pm
☎ 07533 845714 and 07737 564677

Windale School
Summer Holiday Funweeks
(in partnership with JSC)

Monday 23 July to Friday 17 August / 9am–3pm

Windale Community Primary School, OX4 6JD

The Programme is managed by former Oxford City Council "Street Sports Co-ordinator"

JASON S. CARBON & Funweeks Squad

Rachel, Jake, Leah, Kayleigh and Jamie currently teach PE at Windale Community Primary School
(JSC staff are qualified 1st Aiders and hold Enhanced CRB Certificates)

ABC Funweek is for children aged 8 to 11 years

● MINI OLYMPICS ● ART~BALANCE~CULTURE
● MUSIC & DANCE SESSIONS ● MULTI-SPORTS ACTIVITIES

£35 per child per week or £9.50 per day
(Includes breakfast. Please add £2 per day if your require lunch.)

For further details contact Windale School PA Christine Wenborn on **01865 777796**
Email: **cwen3553@windale.ocnmail.net**

Jason S. Carbon
Tweet: @jsc4kidscom www.jsc4kids.com

S & R CHILDS
INDEPENDENT FUNERAL SERVICES

Pharmacy House, 69 London Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 9AA **Tel: (01865) 427272**

10 The Parade, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1EE **Tel: (01865) 378888**

142 Oxford Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2DZ
Tel: (01865) 714007

4 Elms Parade, Botley, Oxford OX2 9LG
Tel: (01865) 245464

www.srchilds.co.uk

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Leys Sport

Leys News aims to bring you the best in local sporting action. If you would like to sponsor this page please email editor@leysnews.co.uk or ring 01865 711756

Volunteers needed for torch relay

MORE THAN 500 volunteers are needed to help steward the Olympic Torch Relay events in Oxford, and Oxford City Council is calling on people across the city to get involved.

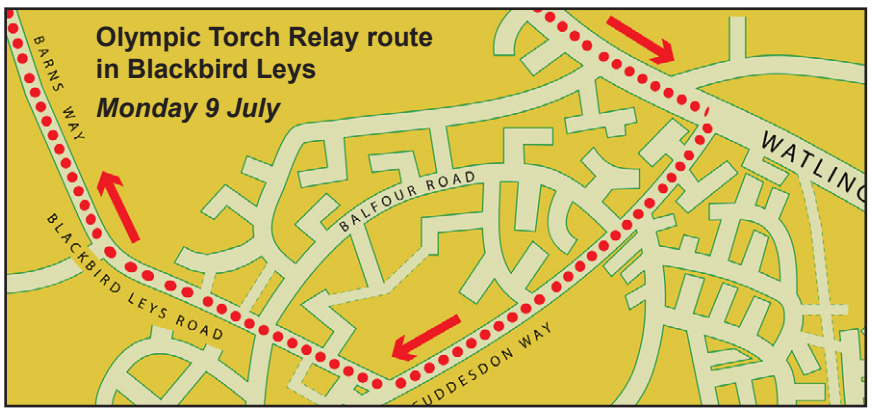
The Olympic Torch will be coming to Oxford during its tour of the UK on the afternoon of Monday 9 July and will be leaving the city on the morning of Tuesday 10 July. While in the city, the torch will travel down 5.7 miles of Oxford's roads and streets; giving communities the opportunity to be part of the London 2012 celebration. This event will not only attract residents of Oxford, but will also be a show stopping event for residents of Oxfordshire, the wider counties and the city's tourists.

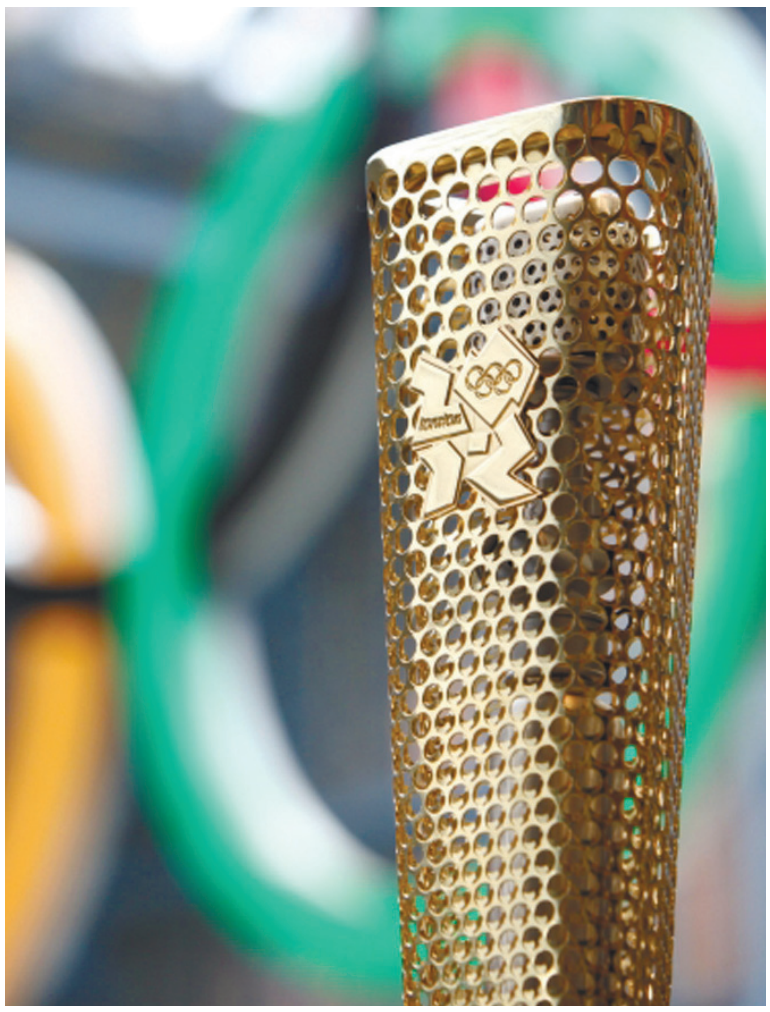
On the evening of 9 July there will be a celebration event in Oxford's South Park. The torch will then leave Oxford University's famous Iffley Road running track on the morning of Tuesday 10 July to continue its journey out of the county on to Berkshire.

The City Council needs over 500 volunteers; with the majority needed to steward the torch route through Oxford.

To attract this high number of volunteers the council is asking organisations and individuals to volunteer at this once in a lifetime experience.

More details are available by visiting www.oxford.gov.uk/london2012





FREE Gym Memberships in Oxford

AS PART of the Sportivate activity programme free two month gym memberships are being offered to any 16–25 year olds on the Leys.

The free memberships will launch from 1 June and will be redeemable until 31 August 2012. After that time, participants will be able to claim a further two months at the knock down price of just £10 per month.

To claim just walk into one of the participating centres: Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre, Blackbird Leys Pool, Temple Cowley Pool and Fitness Centre, Barton Leisure Centre, Ferry Leisure Centre or Hinksey Pool and ask for an application form and to book your initial consultation with a fitness instructor.

Each participant will receive a free card and exercise programme that will involve a range of activities covering the eight weeks.

For further information call 0844 8933 222

A centre of excellence at the Academy

THE Oxford Academy will host the trials for the Oxford United Girls Centre of Excellence throughout June. The trials will provide new players with the opportunity to show their skill and talent with the hope of being chosen to join the FAs female player development pathway.

The trials will include all aspects of football from technique to game related. The first three sessions are open and then the fourth and final one is for selected players.

For more information and to register your place please email rblackmore@oufc.co.uk

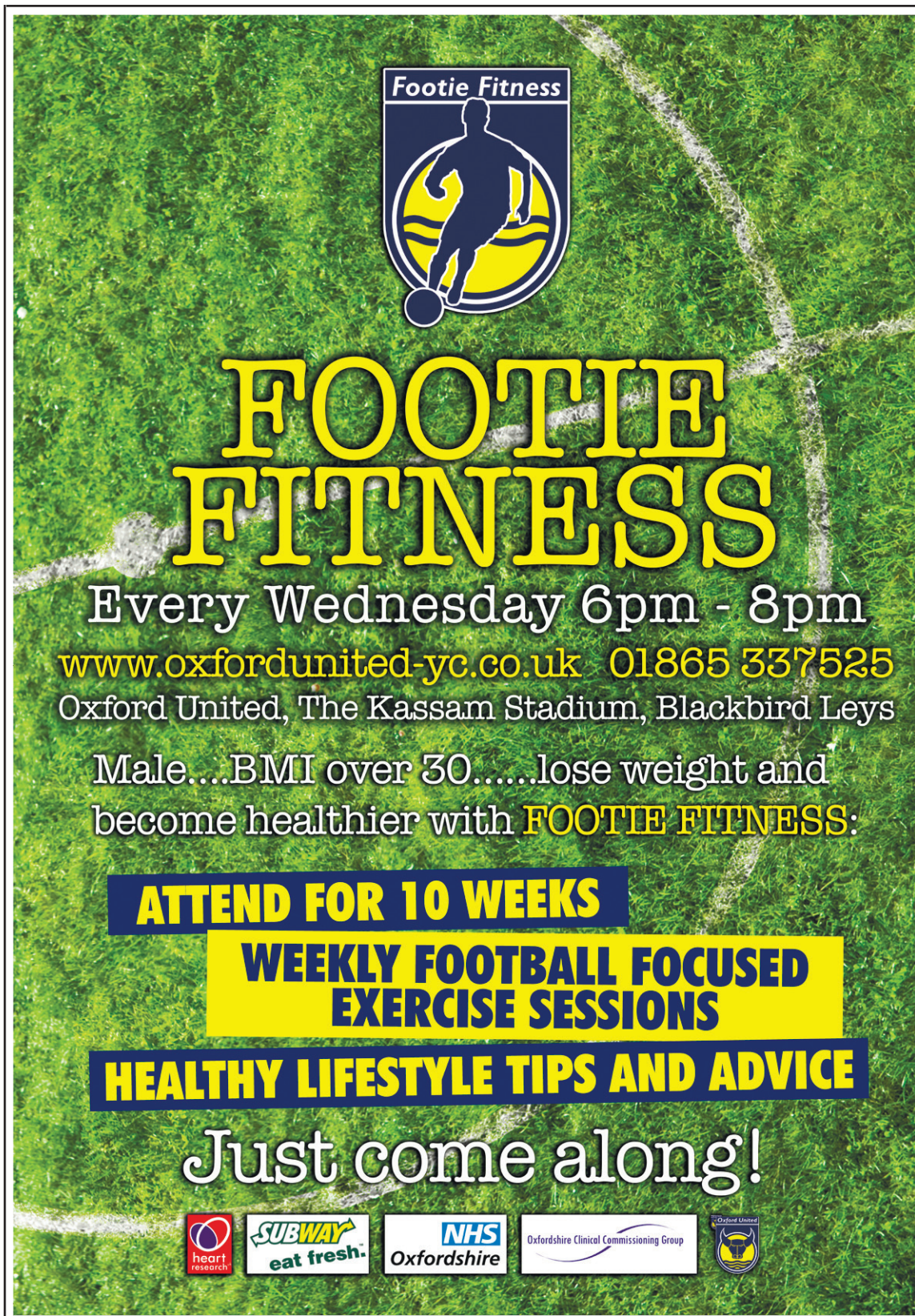
NEW KIT FOR GREATER LEYS

PREMIER League football players have donated a new set of football kit to Greater Leys Youth Football Club as a part of the Premier League Players' Kit Scheme.

Greater Leys Youth FC are one of over 1,000 teams to receive the kits after successfully applying to the Scheme. Ian Fieldwick, Greater Leys Youth FC Club Welfare Officer said: "New kits are a huge financial cost to a club and therefore we are really appreciative to receive this kit from the scheme."

The Premier League Players' Kit Scheme is supported by the squads of all 20 Barclays Premier League clubs to provide U16 clubs, schools and youth organisations in England and Wales with free Nike football kit and equipment. Every Premier League squad donated £25,000 to the scheme to create a £500,000 fund which aims to particularly benefit those who come from areas in most need of assistance.

A new application phase is now open and the Premier League is urging local clubs to follow in the footsteps of Greater Leys Youth FC and apply for free kit for the new football season at premierleague.com.

The idea for the Players' Kit Scheme originated at a meeting last summer between the Premier League, delegates from the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) and captains from all Premier League clubs.

Following the meeting, the players committed to adopt the scheme to deliver these valuable resources to help provide footballing opportunities across the country.